

Mr. Garza has been a true leader and influential figure in our community. In 2017, his company Uni-Trade Group hosted the NAFTA Roundtable Discussion to discuss the significance of NAFTA, now the USMCA. This event brought together local private sector leaders, directors of public institutions, as well as Texas lawmakers like me and Senator JOHN CORNYN. He has also been a prominent member of the Catholic Church in Laredo, Texas.

Eduardo has been a friend throughout the years, and we have partnered on numerous occasions to better improve binational trade. Eduardo, I congratulate you for winning this award, and I wish you, your wife Juantia, your six children and seven grandchildren many more years of prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. NAVAL
ACADEMY CLASS OF 1970

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 1970 on the fiftieth reunion that it celebrated over the past year. It has been an honor to support the U.S. Naval Academy as the Representative from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District and to nominate outstanding candidates for admission each year from our communities. With the Academy located in our neighboring district, bright and talented students from Fifth District high schools have long been drawn to Annapolis for the next step in their education and service to country and community. The Naval Academy has a proud history of developing excellence in education and shaping the character of its past and present graduates, and it continues to train future leaders of the Navy and of our country. The Class of 1970 exemplifies the high-quality standards of the Academy and of the Navy, and I know that many of its alumni had been looking forward to celebrating its fiftieth reunion in 2020. Because of the pandemic, however, they could not gather in person last year; thankfully, they are planning to convene this Labor Day weekend.

The U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1970 began its journey as midshipmen in 1966, during the height of the Vietnam War. They stepped up, knowing that after graduation many would be sent into combat as Navy and Marine Corps officers. That it was such a challenging time for our nation and for our military did not deter them; instead, it made them more determined to graduate with honor and serve with distinction.

From their graduation day onward, this class has set a very high standard, with impressive accomplishments and careers. Members of this class fought valiantly in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and other conflicts over the past half-century. They served in the air, on land, at sea, and beneath the sea. Members of this class have served at the very highest level of our military, including twenty-seven flag officers—one of whom was Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The class includes six who were appointed as deputy assistant secretaries or above in the federal government. Members have served their local communities as elected officials, and the class also boasts

chief executive officers for major corporations, many of which we are all very familiar—such as Pepsico, General Motors, and Amgen. The class also produced a Member of this House, former Rep. Ronald Machtley, and a Member of Congress in the Philippines who later served that country as its National Security Advisor. The Class of 1970 also produced five Academy Distinguished Graduates, tied for the most from any single graduating class.

The U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1970 exemplifies the Navy ethos of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment." These values have defined its graduates' contributions to our country and their dedication to public service. Like many others before and who have followed, they sacrificed through long deployments, separation from loved ones, challenging trials, and tests that most Americans cannot fathom. Some even sacrificed their lives carrying out their missions. I know that new generations of midshipmen and future Navy and Marine Corps officers will be inspired by the rich heritage of service passed down to them by the Class of 1970.

As the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1970 gathers to mark fifty-one years of service to our nation and to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, and Naval Academy, it is with great pride and pleasure that I offer my congratulations and my thanks for their contributions to the safety and well-being of our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing continued fair winds and following seas to the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1970.

HONORING DUVAL COUNTY JUDGE
GILBERTO URESTI

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Duval County Judge, Gilberto Uresti, for his service to Duval County and South Texas.

Judge Uresti was born on March 12, 1935, in Kingsville, Texas, to Elijo Uresti and Maria Muñoz. He grew up in Benavides, Texas and graduated from Benavides High School as the Salutatorian in 1954. After high school, Judge Uresti obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation, Judge Uresti moved back to Benavides and worked at DeLeon Pharmacy for over forty years, eventually becoming part owner. During this time Judge Uresti married Maria Olga Carrillo, his high school sweetheart, and had four children: Aaron Rene, Belinda Marie, Patricia Annette, and Gilbert Mario.

Judge Uresti was appointed to serve as the Duval County Judge on October 31, 1975, by the judge of the 197th District Court, Judge Darrell Hester. During his tenure as County Judge, Judge Uresti focused on tackling the rampant corruption in Duval County which had bankrupted the local government. His efforts to improve the county's stature and financial standing earned Uresti three terms as Duval County Judge, from October 31, 1975 to December 31, 1986, and from January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1994.

Judge Uresti gained recognition not only from his peers throughout South Texas, but

from the National Association of Counties. His dedication to his community and conviction to follow through on commitments made him one of the most influential figures in South Texas. During and following his appointment, Duval County saw the creation of community centers, new parks, nutritional services for the elderly, housing rehabilitation programs, and a Youth Conservation Corps. Under Judge Uresti's leadership, Duval County was eventually voted Top County in the Nation by the National Association of Counties.

In addition to his accomplishments as a County Judge, he also served as Chairman of the Coastal Bend Council of Governments, a member of the Governor's Regional Review Committee, Chairman of the Community Action Council of South Texas, and a member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors.

Madam Speaker, Judge Uresti is an incredible leader and unwavering commitment to South Texans who will be remembered for generations to come. He is a man of his word, intelligent and disciplined, who treated people with respect and took responsibility. I stand here today to thank Judge Uresti for his contributions to Duval County and all of South Texas.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE
ISRAEL-GAZA CEASEFIRE

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding the cease-fire brokered between Israel and Gaza earlier this year after 11 days of attacks against Israel. I include in the RECORD the following article, "Let This Be the Last Israel-Gaza Ceasefire" published by CNN on May 25, 2021, written by Ambassador Motaz Zahran.

[From CNN, May 24, 2021]

LET THIS BE THE LAST ISRAEL-GAZA
CEASEFIRE

(By Ambassador Motaz Zahran)

Egypt worked around the clock over the past two weeks to end the deadly fighting between our Palestinian and Israeli neighbors. Since the early hours of the conflict, Egyptian mediators led de-escalation talks with both Hamas and Israeli leadership. We supported humanitarian efforts on the ground, including by opening the Rafah border crossing for the provision of immediate medical care to the injured in Gaza. Ultimately, in close partnership with the United States and others, we were able to broker a ceasefire.

On Thursday, President Joe Biden called Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reiterated the vital role mutual coordination between the US and Egypt can have in the region. Egypt will spare no resource in bringing about peace in there, whenever violence erupts. This was true during the 2014 war, when we were instrumental in forging a truce. It was true during the conflict this May. And it will be true at any point in the future.

However, we will also never accept the notion that this cycle of bloodshed is inevitable. That is why we refuse to let this issue recede in international priorities—as it has in the past—until the next crisis emerges and imposes.

Building a lasting solution must start now. Egypt is ready to do everything to help negotiate a lasting peace to the core conflict in

the Middle East. We are calling on the US to work with us to restart that process immediately.

Egypt's historic role in planting the seeds of peace, our substantive contributions toward a Middle East peace plan, our proximity to the conflict, and the direct ramifications of belligerency to our nation, all make Egypt singularly positioned to help restart negotiations toward a two-state solution between Palestinians and Israelis—and with the full span of their rights upheld; prime amongst them is statehood to the Palestinians and security to the Israelis. But we need sustained international efforts.

Working together, Egypt and the US can broker an honest and open dialogue with Israel on concrete steps it should take to work towards peace, such as refraining from taking any further steps detrimental to the wellbeing of the population and the status of the city of Jerusalem, which was occupied by Israel since the 1967 War.

In turn, Cairo and Washington must impress on Palestinians the need to work for peace. While having the militants lay down their arms for good might seem a long way off, stopping further attacks is essential to move forward. Those factions rejecting peace efforts and seeking instability, whatever their name or affiliation is, have to be contained, including by undermining their international network of support and finance. After all, armed attacks and military operations, whatever their cause is, never serve the path towards peace and only sets back the ultimate objective of a two-state solution.

We must work to uphold and enable the Palestinian National Authority. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, has a crucial role in furthering any future peace negotiations. His role as a national leader has been overshadowed by Hamas' recent conflict with Israel, yet he has all the credentials and willingness to return to the table for serious and meaningful discussions. Elevating Abbas in the eyes of the world will bring him back into his historic role as chief negotiator for the Palestinian people; after all, no one on the Palestinian side has worked more on the vision of a two state solution than President Abbas.

A strong and lasting peace in the Middle East may seem far off given the recent heightened tensions in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza, but that should still be the goal for the US, Egypt and, most importantly, Israelis and the Palestinians.

We must continue to march forward toward peace, or we risk continuing to suffer with this vicious cycle of despair and bloodshed.

The continued partnership between Egypt and the United States in peace efforts is a crucial cornerstone to achieving peace in the Middle East. It is indeed no coincidence that the latest ceasefire was declared mere hours after President Biden called President Al-Sisi. When it comes to giving peace a chance in the Middle East, Washington and Cairo must continue to work together as peace-makers and arbiters.

HONORING MERCADO ON FIFTH FOR WINNING THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mercado on Fifth for its effort in aid-

ing small businesses and fostering cultural pride in the Quad Cities. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work they have done in the community.

Every Friday evening, Mercado on Fifth hosts market events where families come from all around the Quad Cities to enjoy Latin food, music and art. These inclusive events bring neighbors together to celebrate culture and community in the Quad Cities. Additionally, Mercado has served as a resource for aspiring entrepreneurs by offering free small business workshops in partnership with the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Western Illinois University. These events also host several nonprofit organizations that have provided educational and outreach materials to local families. I want to thank and honor Mercado on Fifth for their commitment to bringing people together and for their continued service to the Moline community.

It is because of community organizations like Mercado on Fifth that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Mercado on Fifth for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR. RUSSELL YOUNG

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mr. Russell Young, who passed away on July 23, 2021.

Mr. Young was raised in the Brewer Community of Lee County and graduated from Shannon High School in 1954. From there, he attended Mississippi State University and served 10 years in the United States Air Force. Following his service, Mr. Young worked as a paper salesman till his retirement.

Mr. Young is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara Young, his two daughters, his four grandchildren, and his 4 great-grandchildren. Along with his three sisters, his two brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Young was a longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church in Tupelo and will be dearly missed by all.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NEVADA

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th anniversary of Lutheran Social Services of Nevada (LSSN), who serves our southern Nevada community.

Throughout their 25 years of service, LSSN has provided help to more than 383,231 Las Vegans in need.

What began as humble means of helping the community in 1985, in the form of a food

pantry and clothing closet, LSSN has grown to an immense operation serving a multitude of southern Nevadans over the last 25 years that are low-income, at-risk of homelessness, homeless, families with or without children, youth, veterans, people with disabilities, and senior citizens.

Despite the uncertainty and unprecedented challenges of the last 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, LSSN found further ways to redouble their efforts to the community by distributing more than 770,596 pounds of food through their DigiMart Food Pantry to more than 62,840 people. This is nearly three times as many of Las Vegans they have served through the pantry prior to the pandemic. Additionally, LSSN provided rental assistance and rapid rehousing resources to 167 households in need. This allowed those families to remain or become sheltered in the midst of a pandemic ravaging our Las Vegas community and economy. Finally, LSSN served more than 7,960 hot and well-balanced meals to seniors, while also teaching nutrition education and physical activity through Zoom and other remote means.

It was my honor to visit and tour the LSSN DigiMart Food Pantry in May 2021, as they unveiled an expansion of the facility from 750 square feet to 3,058 square feet. LSSN projects that this will allow them to serve an additional 5,000 families annually.

I am in awe of the way our Nevada entities and community have continually stepped up to serve through numerous crises, and that gratitude extends to LSSN. I look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success in the years to come, and I encourage everyone to join me in celebrating and honoring their 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus and avid supporter of my district's vibrant Ukrainian-American community, with whom I join in proudly celebrating the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Always, but on this day especially, it is vitally important that the United States maintains its robust support for Ukraine's security, territorial integrity, and democratic future. I will continue to advocate for this support in Congress as I did earlier this year when I partnered with the bipartisan chairs of the Ukraine Caucus to urge appropriators to allocate robust funding for Ukraine as they crafted our annual spending bill. This necessary funding will help support Ukraine's democratic progress, counter Russian aggression, fight corruption and more. I will continue to work closely with my Ukrainian-American neighbors in Michigan's Ninth District to tackle these issues and others impacting Ukraine as both a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as their representative in Washington.

It is truly an honor to celebrate this milestone in Ukraine's history with my Ukrainian-